

# Engle Splits With Admiral On Pentagon

Senator and Polaris  
Chief Debate Unity

By Victor Wilson

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—A

Senator active in defense matters and the chief of the Navy's Polaris missile program disagreed publicly today on major proposals for reorganizing the Department of Defense.

Sen. Clair Engle, D., Calif., member of the Armed Services Committee, a vocal exponent of thorough Defense Department reorganization and reunification and with high influence in the incoming Administration, plumped for department streamlining leading eventually to a single chief of staff.

## Admiral Disagrees

Vice-Adm. W. F. Raborn, chief of the Navy's Polaris missile program, disagreed with most of Sen. Engle's ideas, asserted the armed forces are already unified enough under command of the President and warned against trying to make one over-all commander a "jack of all trades."

Sen. Engle declared, however, that reorganization will come under President-elect John F. Kennedy's administration. And it will probably stem, he added, from "definite recommendations" to be made to the incoming Chief Executive tomorrow by Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., at Palm Beach, Fla. The Missourian and a committee he heads have been studying Defense Department changes for many weeks at Sen. Kennedy's behest.

"I think they are really going after reorganizing the Defense Department," Sen. Engle said. "... They will come up with something explicit and very strong in that area, because it is really needed."

The arena for the defense debate—and disagreement on changes and goals—between the Senator and admiral was ABC's TV-radio program, "Issues and Answers."

## Split on "Duplication"

Aside from disagreeing on an eventual single armed forces staff chief and the degree of reorganization and reunification

needed, they also split—though very politely—on alleged duplication of effort among the Army, Navy and Air Force, the value of unified weapons research and the need for a single strike-force commander of all strategic offensive arms.

On duplication of effort, Sen. Engle pointed out that in the missile field alone, the Air Force has developed its Thor weapon, the Army its Jupiter and the Navy its Polaris.

Conceding that Polaris may be a better weapon than either Thor or Jupiter, Sen. Engle added that "we do get this duplication. And I hope we can avoid it... in the reorganization of the Defense Department which is planned by President-elect Jack Kennedy. I hope that we can arrange finally to program our affairs so that we don't have the three services all doing the same thing."

Adm. Raborn, defending Polaris as "a major war deterrent," said "it is designed to keep any trigger-happy finger off the trigger." If used with other weapons, he said, it could prevent a major war from starting.

The admiral called Polaris "a very high complement to the major war deterrent weapons systems, of which there are several." The aircraft carrier and the Strategic Air Command (Air Force) are others, he added.

## Unified Research

The value of unified research for all three services was inherent in Sen. Engle's criticism of the present department set-up, but Adm. Raborn stoutly defended independent effort. He said he didn't think unified research would save much money; that there was "considerably less" unnecessary duplication in the services than in "civilian life, where commercial profit is the gain, and that is a pretty stern taskmaster" and that inter-service information exchange has been "excellent."

Sen. Engle said the defense set-up badly needed to "wipe out layers of command" and put the nation's "strategic strike forces" under one command. Now, he explained, the Army, Navy, S. A. C., the Air Force and the Missile Command all go their separate ways. He went on:

"I understand it was only recently they got together on what targets they were going to hit if they had a major attack. In other words, they had no correlation at all. The Navy might be hitting one, and the Air Force the same, and vice-versa. That is no way to do it."

Adm. Raborn, however, stood by the theory that "a good soldier, air man or Navy man requires dedicated performance in that service for a lifetime. There is just too much to learn to be a jack-of-all-trades and do a good job of it."

In summing up his position, Adm. Raborn declared:

"We (Navy men) are proud to serve our country, and we believe that the system that has kept our country free for these many years is one we should try to enhance as we go along, and we should be very careful about making changes that, in themselves, might not prove as successful in future wars."

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT